

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides for plant extracts and dermatological formulations comprising one or more plant extracts that are capable of inhibiting one or more extracellular proteases selected from the group of: matrix metalloprotease-1 (MMP-1), matrix metalloprotease-2 (MMP-2), matrix metalloprotease-3 (MMP-3), matrix metalloprotease-9 (MMP-9) and human leukocyte elastase (HLE). The present invention further provides for a rapid method for screening plant extracts to identify those having the above activity that are suitable for incorporation into the dermatological formulations of the invention. The invention also provides for the use of the plant extracts as dermatological agents suitable for the treatment or prevention of various dermatological conditions, including wrinkling or sagging of the skin, irradiation induced skin and/or hair damage, deepening of skin lines, elastotic changes in the skin, as well as for the routine care of the skin, hair and/or nails.